

NEWS



From Congressman
Philip M. Crane
8th District - Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

CONGRESSMAN PHIL CRANE'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE HILLCREST WATER CONTAMINATION

Within the last several months, many of my neighbors have experienced a difficult time as their water source has been contaminated. As a fellow resident of Wauconda and as a father, I can understand what a stressful time this is, as their confidence has diminished in one of the most basic elements of our existence.

I am committed to continuing to work with the residents of the affected area to find a long-term solution to this problem.

When I realized residents' frustration with the manner in which the EPA was addressing this issue, I sent a strong letter to EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt. This letter requested that the EPA review its handling of the Wauconda Superfund site (dated July 28).

I personally have met with residents several times over the last few weeks to listen to their concerns. I have alerted the White House of this situation and the EPA is working to find resolution to this problem, which could include the provision of bottled water to all residents in the Hillcrest subdivision and those in surrounding areas potentially affected by the plume. Of course, the provision of bottled water is just a short-term solution; ultimately, we must find an alternate clean water source for these residents.

I am well aware that my constituents are frustrated with their inability to have their questions answered by someone of authority. Therefore, I am organizing a Town Hall with representatives from the EPA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Geological Survey where residents will be able to pose their questions directly to officials. I hope to have this meeting scheduled as soon as possible.

Now is the time for all of us to work together to find both a short and long term solution to this problem.

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